

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated February 21, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-26, 28-36, and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,389,462) in view of Stallings et al. (William Stallings, Local and Metropolitan Area Networks 454-56 (4th ed. 1993)) and allowed claims 7, 17, 27, 37, 41-46, 48-56, 58-66, 68-76, and 78-80.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 17, 27, 37, 41-46, 48-56, 58-66, 68-76, and 78-80 contain allowable subject matter. Although Applicants submit that claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-26, 28-36, and 38-40 are also distinguishable from the cited art, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants propose canceling claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-26, 28-36, and 38-40 without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, Applicants also propose amending claims 7, 17, 27, and 37 to correct minor typographical errors.

Based on these proposed amendments, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of canceled claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-26, 28-36, and 38-40 and allow this application to issue with allowed claims 7, 17, 27, 37, 41-46, 48-56, 58-66, 68-76, and 78-80.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 7, 17, 27, 37, 41-46, 48-56, 58-66, 68-76, and 78-80 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 7, 17, 27, and 37 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their

relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined.

Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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